

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Action/Consent Item:**

Appointment to the State Textbook Commission

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 156.405 (2)

### **Action Question:**

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve the recommendation for an appointment to the State Textbook Commission?

### **Background/History:**

***Existing Policy.*** In accordance with KRS 156.405 (2), the Kentucky Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the chief state school officer, approves the appointment of members to the State Textbook Commission for terms of four years. Two appointments are made each year with the exception of four appointments made every fourth year.

The State Textbook Commission oversees the state adoption process for textbooks and instructional materials. It consists of ten members who represent the various areas of the Commonwealth—two (2) parents, two (2) administrators, five (5) teachers, and one (1) higher education representative. Their responsibilities include approving substitutions, establishing the state multiple list, approving membership for a statewide review team, and developing an evaluation instrument for each adoption group with the assistance of the review team.

Individuals currently serving on the Commission are as follows:

- Rhonda Boyd, teacher, Georgetown Middle School, Georgetown (Scott County)
- L. J. Harville, teacher, Belfry Middle and High School (Pike County)
- Denishia Martin, teacher, Warren East High School, Bowling Green (Warren County)
- Jennifer Mattingly, principal, Rockcastle High School (Rockcastle County)
- Mary Mills, parent, Mumfordsville, (Hart County)
- Cliff Owen, administrator, McCracken County Schools, Paducah (McCracken County)
- Karen Roberts, teacher, Longfellow Primary School, Mayfield (Graves County)
- Katrina Slone, teacher, Hindman Elementary, Hindman (Knott County)
- Natalie Stiglitz, higher education faculty, University of Louisville, Louisville (Jefferson County)

**Policy Issues and Options:**

According to KRS 156.405 (2), the State Textbook Commission is required to have ten members. In April 2006, parent representative Staci Barnett-Slusher resigned creating one vacancy on the Commission.

If this applicant is approved, the composition of the State Textbook Commission will represent all areas of the state, will consist of two (2) males and eight (8) females, will be composed of one (1) African-American and nine (9) Caucasians, and meet the requirements set forth in the statute.

Options are:

1. Approve the appointment.
2. Delay action and consider other applicants.
3. Deny the appointment.

**Staff Recommendation and Rationale:**

Staff recommends approval of the appointment of Dennis E. Pearce to the State Textbook Commission. He is fully qualified to be a member of the Commission.

Mr. Pearce is the parent of a child in the Fayette County Schools. He is a past member of a school-based council (Squires Elementary) and a current member of Commissioner's Parent Advisory Council. He was a 1998 Fellow in the Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership. He seeks "the opportunity to provide students with textbooks that are not only accurate and comprehensive but interesting and engaging." While acknowledging that textbooks are often used as the central instructional component in many classrooms, and thus must be of high quality, he believes that the textbook should serve as "one of many sources of knowledge and understanding." His evaluation of textbooks would include content-specific criteria based on core content as well as a consideration of how well a text helps meet the "challenge" of integrating across disciplines. Mr. Pearce is employed by Lexmark International.

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**Deputy Commissioner**

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**Commissioner of Education****Date:**

August 2006